GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3114
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2008
IRREGULARITIES IN ALLOTMENT OF PETROL PUMPS/GAS AGENCIES
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a): whether the Government has made any provisions to prevent corrupt practices in the allotment of petrol pumps and gas agencies;

(b): if so, the details of these provisions;

(c): whether inspite of these provisions irregularities and corruption have been committed in allotting petrol pumps and gas agencies;

(d): if so, the number of such cases which have come to notice during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e): the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (e): Based on the broad policy guidelines issued by the Ministry, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs.), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have framed their own detailed guidelines for selection of dealership/distributorship of petroleum products. As per the guidelines framed by OMCs, selection of the candidates for dealerships/ distributorships of petroleum products is done by independent selection committees consisting of senior officers of the Corporation. Out of 100 marks, approximate 90% marks are awarded on verifiable objective criteria based on production of documents by the candidate, such as capability to provide land, infrastructure, finance, educational qualification, age, etc. Approximate 10% of marks are awarded on subjective criteria such as personality, knowledge of the petroleum trade, communication skill, etc. The selection is done in a transparent manner and the results including parameter-wise marks obtained by all the candidates are displayed on the notice board and are also put on the website of the concerned OMCs.

Further, the selection guidelines contain provisions for grievance redressal system where each and every complaint is registered and examined by a Screening Committee. The complaints having prima-facie merit are investigated and complainants are advised to furnish material, if any, to substantiate their allegations. Complaints are disposed off by way of a speaking order and a copy of the same is given to all concerned. In case of established complaints action is taken by the OMCs which includes re-advertisement, re-interview, cancellation of selection process, initiation of disciplinary action against erring officials of the Corporation, etc. The State-wise details of the complaints against selection process received by OMCs during the last three years are available with the Director(Marketing) of the OMCs.